



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Scripture: John 1:43-51

TITLE: Come and See

My wife is an includer. If there's an event or experience she wants to tell people about it. It can be a cookout at the house or a seal at the beach, she will tell anyone she can see. She wants to share something that's special.

This is a lot like our faith. As Christians we are to say "Come and see Jesus." We see this happen John 1:43-46. Let's turn there to see a familiar story and understand a confusing statement.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Let's stop there for a moment. In the previous verses, Jesus gains some new students: Peter and Andrew. They begin to follow Jesus. Now here in verses 43-46, the posse grows. Jesus finds Phillip and says, "Follow me." This is significant because Philip is insignificant. We don't know much about him but Jesus calls out to him. "Follow me." And apparently he follows. Phillip believes that Jesus is the real deal so he finds Nathanael and says, "We found the Messiah! This is the one we've been waiting for hundreds and hundreds of years!"

And what does Nathanael say? "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" It's not because Nazareth was a bad place. It was insignificant. It was nothing special. Why would the Messiah be hanging around there? And what's Phillip's response? Come and see.

Let's continue in John 1:47-51.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Nathanael comes with Philip and Jesus says, “Here comes a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” Deceit really means bait. This was a fishing community. Jesus is saying, “This guy is here to stay. He’s ready to go. He won’t cut and run.”

Nathanael asks how Jesus knew him. He provides some divine knowledge and Nathanael is convinced. But Jesus basically says, “You believe after this? You ain’t seen nothing yet.” And then in verse 51, he makes a confusing statement. But it’s simply a reference to Genesis 28 where God and Jacob wrestle. He is saying, “This is the moment you’ve been waiting for. The Son of Man is here. Your Messiah – Your true King is here.”

So what will you do today? Will you cut and run from Jesus or will you follow Him like Nathanael? Will you pursue Jesus like He has pursued you? He is asking you to follow. Will you?

Perhaps you have but you haven’t invited someone to “come and see Jesus.” Do so today. Today, Jesus is waiting. Follow Him. Bring other to Him. When they do they won’t be disappointed. Instead, they will meet the Son of God!